

Missouri Botanical Garden  
Administration Building  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
2345 Tower Grove Avenue  
St. Louis  
Missouri

HABS  
MO,  
96-SALU,  
105B-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGHABS  
MO,  
96-SALU,  
105B-

Location: 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.  
USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 15.738790.4276910

Present Owner: Board of Trustees, Missouri Botanical Garden.

Present Use: Offices of administrative staff of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Significance: The structure housed the Shaw School of Botany and was built to be a harmonious addition to the Henry Shaw Townhouse, a dwelling in the Renaissance revival style, erected more than fifty-years before, in 1849. See the HABS report on The Missouri Botanical Garden: Henry Shaw Townhouse (MO-1135-A)

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: April, 1908-1909 (City Building Permit, Block 4104, F. 5355, 4/14/08).
2. Architects: Mauran, Russell, and Garden (Globe Democrat, p.1). The architectural partnership of John Lawrence Mauran, Ernest John Russell, and Edward Gordon Garden was established 1900. The leading partner, John L. Mauran, had studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and trained in the Boston, Chicago, and St. Louis offices of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge; he was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt to the Fine Arts Commission and served as President of the American Institute of Architects during 1916-1918.

One of the firm's first projects was the 1902 planning and development commission for the Missouri Botanical Garden inherited from Olmsted and Eliot (letter dated 1/23/1902 in MBG Lehman Library Archives). See the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden, MO-1135). In 1903 they designed a quadrangle addition to the old Shaw Townhouse, Missouri Botanical Garden, to utilize the entire complex for offices, library, and herbarium (Globe-Democrat, p.1; Trustees Minutes, 11/11/02). In 1908-09 only the first step of this plan was completed.

The First Church of Christ Scientist, the Pilgrim Congregational Church, the Second Baptist (all in St. Louis) and the summer house for E.A. Hitchcock, Dublin, N.H. were designed by the firm.

Mr. Garden retired in 1909. William de Forrest Crowell was admitted to the firm in 1911 and W. Oscar Mullgardt in 1929. J.L. J.L. Mauran died in 1933. In 1937 the firm was renamed Mauran, Russell, Crowell, and Mullgardt (See: Architecture and Design: Mauran, Russell, Crowell, and Mullgardt. New York: Architectural Catalog Co., Inc., 1937. The present successors of the firm in St. Louis are Henmi, Zobel & Fott, Architects (founded in 1974).

3. Original and subsequent owners: Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Garden. For property description, see the HABS report on The Missouri Botanical Garden (MO-1135).
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: In November 1903, Mauran, Russell, and Garden submitted a plan for making the townhouse a wing in a quadrangular complex to house the expanding library and herbarium. The complex would have cost between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 (Globe-Democrat, p.1 Trustees Minutes, 11/11/03). Only the first step in the plan, the \$50,000 addition to the south of the townhouse, was completed. The fireproof addition was begun in April 1908 (City Building Permit Block 4104, F 5355, 4/15/08) was completed in 1909.
5. Alterations and additions: In 1949 the entire basement was sprayed with waterproofing, and the south end of it was enclosed to make a room for graduate students. The second and third floor herbarium partitions in the addition were removed and an elevator installed (MGB Bulletin, January, 1949, pp.3-6). The cornice of the southern section of the addition was replaced with brick for \$800 (City Building Permit, Block 4104 B 5643, 9/15/64). In 1968 the basement was renovated and a gas furnace installed (MBG Bulletin, March-April 1968, p.43). Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, Inc. began the first phase of a \$250,000 renovation in June 1974. The goal of the project is to remove all public-oriented functions from the original townhouse into the 1908-09 addition and eventually to restore the townhouse to a museum-type house run under a separate heating and air-conditioning system. The initial priorities are to arrest deterioration and to restore exterior stonework, terra cotta, and iron; leaving interior renovation of the townhouse in indefinite abeyance until adequate funds have been acquired.

The \$40,000 'Phase I' remodeling leaves the townhouse essentially intact, and the only major exterior change throughout consists of the addition of a door with entry ramp placed in the center bay of the south section of the addition, facing east to Tower Grove Avenue.

In the north part of the addition, the basement will be outfitted with a new darkroom and library storage room, both with resilient tile flooring and gypsum board walls. The first floor will contain community services, publication, and scheduling secretary's offices. Changes there will include adding furred mineral tile ceilings and exposure of the existing brick walls.

The south part of the addition will have its basement renovated to accomodate an employees' lounge and receiving, mail, telephone, duplicating machine, supply, and community service rooms, all with resilient tile flooring and gypsum board walls. The new southeast ramp will enter into the main floor lobby and display area, which has exposed original brick walls. The switchboard and reception offices to the west will have gypsum board walls and a suspended wooden trellis ceiling. To the northeast will lie a media presentation room with fabric-wrapped panel walls (HOK 'Phase I' plans). The second and third floors of both sections of the addition will be left largely unchanged, with low partitions of oak and glass being added to break the space into administrative and botanical research offices (Klein interview).

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

1. See HABS report on The Missouri Botanical Garden (MO-1135-A).

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Two views of the exterior taken from the east shortly after completion of this addition are in the miscellaneous picture file in drawers #1 and #2 of the Oversize Archives in the John S. Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden (see HABS photocopies). For views of the adjoining Townhouse before construction of the addition, see the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden Henry Shaw Townhouse (MO-1135-A).

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

1. Plans: The plans by Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum for 'Phase I' renovation are in the custody of Assistant Garden Director William Klein.
2. Documents: Letters and Minutes of the Trustees are contained in the Lehmann Library Archives, MBG.
3. Interview: July 9, 1974, Office of Assistant Director of the Garden, 2315 Tower Grove Ave. William Klein explained the nature of the current renovation.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Anonymous. Architecture and Design: Mauran, Russell, Crowell, and Mullgardt. New York: Architectural Catalog Co., Inc., 1937.

"Changes Planned at Shaw's Garden," St. Louis Globe-Democrat, April 12, 1908, pp.1 and 4.

Kobuski, Clarence E. "Formative Says st Mr. Shaw's Garden," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXX, #5 (May 1942),

"Maintenance and Engineering," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, LVI, #2 (March-April 1968), p.43.

Moore, George. "Sixtieth Annual Report of the Director," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXXVII, #1 (January 1949), pp.1-6.

"Some Facts about the Garden," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXXI, #7, (Sept. 1943) n.p.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The structure has Renaissance Revival details to blend with the Henry Shaw Townhouse, which it abuts on the north, forming an imposing symmetrical, five part composition, with arcaded terraces at the second-floor level of the three central units.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular, consisting of three contiguous blocks, forming a coherent five-part symmetrical composition with the Henry Shaw Townhouse (See the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden Henry Shaw Townhouse (MO-1135-A), 110'-2" eleven-bay east front) by 50'-6" (three bays), 54' high to top of south block roof, three stories, full basement.

2. Foundations: Stone.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red brick, white limestone quoins, window sills and lintels, and pier caps, terra cotta cornice, and window moldings. North block joins townhouse, projecting slightly. On the east elevation it has a terrace at the second-floor level, fronted by a giant arcade of round-headed arches supported on square piers. A stone-balustraded balcony projects from the northern three bays, carried by ornamental stone scroll brackets. A panel of brick laid in lattice pattern is centered in the east and west parapets above the cornice line. The central, recessed block has a similar east arcade, but no balcony. There are five ornamental iron railings between the four piers, with studded diamond-shaped members in the upper section and five segments in their lower section, consisting of filigreed 'X'-shaped elements. The first-story windows on this and the north block have spear-headed iron window guards. The center and south blocks were designed to match the two-block composition of the Shaw Townhouse to the north.
4. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors:
    1. The main entry in the south block on the east facade has double glass doors surmounted by a flat transom. A pedimented stone molding runs around the jambs.
    2. The rear door in the south block of the west facade has a single panel and is topped by a stone entablature carried on stone brackets.
  - b. Windows:
    1. South elevation: There are three flat-arched windows with brick voussoirs on each floor. Those on the east and west bays have stone keystones and one-over-one-light sash.
    2. East elevation:
      - a. North and central blocks: There are three flat-arched windows on each floor with stone keystones on the second and third floors and full stone lintels on the first floor. All have six-over-six-light sash.
      - b. South block: The first and second-floor windows have pediments: Those on the third floor are segmental. All have one-over-one sash with surrounding stone molding.

3. West elevation:

- a. North block: This arcaded section projects slightly and has round-arched windows on the third floor, and flat-arched ones on the first and second, with the same details as those on the east facade of the north block.
- b. Central block: This has the same details as are on its eastern face.
- c. South Block: The southwest windows have brick voussoirs and stone keystones. The windows in the center bays have plain brick headings. The north bays have a series of three flat-arched windows following the slope of the interior stairway between the first and second floors. They have brick voussoirs and stone keystones. A similar series runs between the second and third floors, but the voussoirs as well as the keystones are of stone. There are three-light basement casements on all sections.

4. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: The south block has a hip roof with a flat deck surrounded by a terra cotta molding. The central bay has a flat roof, and the north, a stepped parapet masking the housing for the elevator shaft. All are covered with metal sheeting.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There are stone cornices and modillions on the north and central blocks and a plain cornice on the south.

C. Description of Interior:

Floor plans: The central and north blocks contain open work spaces. The elevator runs through the center of the north block. The south block has been broken into work rooms of varying sizes on the basement, first, and second-floor levels. It is open on the third floor. All sections are being renovated at the present. There is a stairway in the northwest corner of the south block.

C. Site:

The structure is an addition to the Shaw Townhouse which it joins on the north. The whole unit lies behind the limestone-base, spear-headed iron fence along Tower Grove Avenue, on the east boundary of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm  
Field Historian  
National Park Service  
August, 1974

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (architect, University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, project foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers. in the HABS Washington office in 1982. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.